

195-97 Iron Street (House)  
(Cambria Iron Company House  
Minersville Neighborhood  
195-97 Iron Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5771

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**195-97 Iron Street (House)**  
(Cambria Iron Company House)

HA8S No. PA-5771

Location: 195-97 Iron Street, Minersville, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: No. 195-97 Iron Street is a two-family building facing north, between a vacant lot and a single-family building. It is a square building, 26' x 30', wood-framed with wood siding and a front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building is two stories tall. The foundation is constructed of cut stone. A 24' x 6' front porch is covered with a hip roof supported by three Tuscan columns. Double-hung-sash windows flank the two front entryways; two double-hung-sash windows are incorporated into the second-story facade.

This building is very similar in style to a number of buildings on the south side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Iron Street. This home and the other houses were built by the Cambria Iron Company.

History: No. 195-97 Iron Street was constructed in 1889, according to tax assessment records. The Cambria Iron Company conveyed this property to John L. Dowling in exchange for another parcel of land, on July 20, 1892. The 1880 census records a John Dowling, 19, an Irish-American laborer in a rolling mill, in Millville Borough. A John Dowling was also a general merchant in Cambria City, at 421 Broad (1889) and 601 Broad (1901), and also the treasurer of Cambria Borough (1884). Dowling sold the property to Patrick Connelley for \$1,800 on October 15, 1896.

According to city directories for 1889 and 1901, Connelley owned and lived in houses on Connelley Avenue in Minersville. He operated a general merchandise store at 141-43 Connelley Avenue. The Connelley family was prominent in Minersville between approximately 1885 and 1920.

In 1900, Connelley rented the property to Mr. Kynuc (first name illegible), Kynuc's family of five, and Peter Kynuc. Mr. Kynuc and Peter Kynuc were blast furnace laborers, from Austria. In 1910, 195 Iron was rented to John Vanach, his family of three and three boarders. Vanach was a Polish coal miner, from "Austria-Poland," according to the census. The three boarders, Costek Jalskey, Frank Bagas, and John Merchas, were also from Austria-Poland, and between the ages of 23 and 25. Jalskey and Merchas were coal miners, Bagas a laborer in the steel mills. No. 197 Iron was rented to Mikovic Kash, his family of three, and two male boarders. Kash, a coal miner, and the boarders, Kasmere Cernink and Thomas Strunk, both steel mill laborers, were Polish. The Connelley family sold the property in 1948.

Sources:

Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Cambria County Historic Sites Survey, Johnstown Inventory, Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County, 1981.

Johnstown City Directories, 1884, 1889, 1901.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Company, 1895, 1913).

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United States Census, Cambria County Pennsylvania, Millville Borough (1880); and same, City of Johnstown, Fourteenth Ward (1900 and 1910).

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Jeffrey Hickey in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Hickey's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.